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EDGEWATER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR

BALTIMORE, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today Loren Williams, age 44, of Edgewater, Maryland pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake to sexually exploiting a minor in order to produce images of that minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Williams admitted that on March 22, 2004, the Ocean City Police Department received a complaint from a male, born in 1989, that he had been sexually molested by Williams. The minor stated that his mother had allowed him to stay in the custody of Williams for days at a time and to take trips with Williams to places such as Ocean City, Maryland. The minor advised that when Williams sexually molested him in Ocean City in August of 2003, Williams videotaped the incident.

According to the statement of facts, Ocean City Police Department and other law enforcement executed a search warrant at Williams' residence and seized several computers, numerous videotapes and photographic equipment. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement searched the computers and videotapes. Williams is seen on a videotape performing sexual acts upon the minor, and reaching for a digital camera and adjusting its position.

Williams faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison, a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, and supervised release for life. Judge Blake has scheduled sentencing for December 20, 2005.

United States Attorney Rosenstein commended the investigative work of the Ocean City Police Department and the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, and praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G.W. Norman for prosecuting the case.